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General segment

Provisional summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 26 July 2002, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Šimonović ..... (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (*continued*) (E/2002/62 and 73)

Agreed conclusions of the coordination segment (E/2002/L*)

1. **Ms. Myllymäki** (Finland), introducing the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment (E/2002/L*), said that they were aimed at strengthening the Council's work and enhancing its efficiency.

2. *The agreed conclusions were adopted.*

3. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council (E/2002/62) and the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/2002/73).

4. *The Council took note of documents E/2002/62 and E/2002/73.*

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (*continued*) (A/57/97-E/2002/76)

Draft resolution E/2002/L.34

5. **Mr. Buallay** (Bahrain), Vice-President, introduced draft resolution E/2002/L.34, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations", which represented the outcome of the humanitarian segment. The text — the first of its kind in three years — had been achieved despite difficult negotiations. Action-oriented, it dealt with, inter alia, the transition from relief to development, the strengthening of existing planning tools such as the consolidated appeals process, the development of a global humanitarian financial tracking system and the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

6. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. **Mr. Simancas** (Mexico) said that technical revisions were required in the Spanish version of the text.

8. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.34 was adopted, on the understanding that the Spanish version would be revised.*

9. **Mr. Morikawa** (Japan), welcoming the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, said that it would facilitate the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance and the protection of vulnerable persons.

10. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique (A/57/97-E/2002/76).

11. *The Council took note of document A/57/97-E/2002/76.*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/57/75-E/2002/57; E/2002/53)

Draft decision E/2002/L.28

12. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/2002/L.28, entitled "Implementation of agreed conclusions 2001/1 of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector".

13. *Draft decision E/2002/L.28 was adopted.*

14. **The President**, responding to a question put by **Mr. Maquieira** (Chile), said that he would hold consultations with the Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the relevant Vice-President of the Council to determine the status of the draft resolution on the question of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the Millennium Summit.

* To be issued.

15. He took it that the Council wished to defer further consideration of that question to its resumed substantive session.

16. *It was so decided.*

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2002/L.31

17. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2002/L.31, entitled "Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010". He announced that Andorra, Cameroon, Croatia, Denmark, El Salvador, Suriname, Uganda and United States of America had joined the list of sponsors.

18. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council), responding to a question put by **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America), confirmed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. **Mr. Aho-Glele** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, urged the Council to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

20. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.31 was adopted.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (*continued*) (E/2002/55)

21. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2001 (E/2002/55).

22. *The Council took note of document E/2002/55.*

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics (*continued*) (A/57/71-E/2002/52)

Draft resolution E/2002/L.29

23. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2002/L.29, entitled "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States".

24. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.29 was adopted.*

25. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (A/57/71-E/2002/52) transmitting a report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union.

26. *The Council took note of document A/57/71-E/2002/52.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2002/L.27/Rev.1

27. **The President** drew attention to draft resolution E/2002/L.27/Rev.1, entitled "Report of the Committee for Development Policy", which had been submitted by Maldives, and said that it had no programme budget implications.

28. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.27/Rev.1 was adopted.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (E/2002/31)

Draft resolution III

29. **The President** invited the Council to resume its consideration of draft resolution III, contained in the Commission's report on its fifth session (E/2001/31) and entitled "Strengthening the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development". Action on the text had been deferred from the Council's 2001 session.

30. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council) outlined the programme budget implications. On the assumption that the annualization of the sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would start during the biennium 2004-2005 and that during the current biennium the Commission would hold only its regular biennial session, in 2003, there would be no additional programme budget implications for 2002-2003.

31. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development was currently entitled to hold one session

every two years. Resource requirements entailed by an additional session every biennium would amount to $228,300 at full cost for conference servicing costs and $115,500 to cover members' travel requirements. Should the draft resolution be adopted, those resource requirements would be included under section 11A (Trade and development) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

32. **Mr. Le Gargasson** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union's position on the draft resolution remained unchanged. The Union was not convinced that an increased frequency of meetings would add to the Commission's efficiency. If action on the draft resolution could not be postponed, the European Union would call for a vote.

33. **Mr. Aguzzi-Durán** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that General Assembly resolution 56/132 of 21 December 2001 invited the Council to consider the matter "no later" than at the current session; there was no reason for it to delay a positive decision further. Annual sessions were vital if the Commission was to keep abreast of rapid changes in the field of science and technology, in the interest of attaining Millennium development goals. Unless it met more frequently, the Commission would not be able to contribute to the first part of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva in December 2003.

34. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) said that her delegation was currently not in a position to support the draft resolution. It was concerned at the cost of annualizing the Commission's meetings and called for action on the draft resolution to be deferred.

35. **Mr. Ji** Fusheng (China), stressing the rapidity of the changes occurring in the field of science and technology, said that the Commission was the only forum in which developed and developing countries could exchange views on the challenges and benefits of new technologies. He thus urged the Council to heed the appeal made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

36. **Mr. Chulkov** (Russian Federation) said that the position of the Russian Federation was firm and accorded with the consensus opinion of the experts who were members of the Commission: it supported those advocating yearly sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. A hasty decision would not be wise, and determining the frequency of the Commission's meetings by taking a vote in the Council would not be good for the latter's authority within the United Nations system. It would be best for discussion to be postponed.

37. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution III.*

In favour:

Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Croatia, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Ukraine.

38. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 34 votes to 15, with 5 abstentions.*

39. **Mr. Blazey** (Australia), explaining his delegation's vote against the resolution, said that it would have been preferable to defer consideration of the issue, as no cogent reason for scheduling annual sessions of the Commission had been given, and an overstrained budget militated against increased frequency.

40. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) said he believed that keeping pace with technology was vital for developing countries, but lack of any substantial consultation on the issue during the session of the Council had led his delegation to abstain.

41. **Mr. Le Gargasson** (France) said that his remarks would be general comments rather than clarification of his delegation's vote. The European Union could only bow to the will of the majority of the members of the Council, but it did not think that the decision just taken would enhance the credibility of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The next Council session was due to emphasize the important implications of information and communication

technologies, paving the way for the World Summit on the Information Society. The United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force was better placed to contribute to the preparatory process. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development had to prove that it could add value to that process. If it was unable to do so, his personal view was that its future would be uncertain.

(c) Statistics (continued)

42. **The President** said that the Council had agreed to defer taking note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-third session (E/2002/24). He invited the Council to approve the holding of the thirty-fourth session and the agenda and documents for that session.

43. **Ms. Rask Thygesen** (Observer for Denmark) said that her delegation found the agenda and dates for the next session of the Statistical Commission perfectly acceptable and, moreover, could not understand why the entire report of the Statistical Commission was not being dealt with. Since the report was a factual document, its consideration should not present any problems.

44. **Mr. Aguzzi-Durán** (Observer for Venezuela) explained that the Group of 77 and China had asked for discussion of the report of the Statistical Commission to be postponed because they took the view that it needed a wider context, including the additional background provided by the two reports on basic indicators for the follow-up of major conferences, one of which had yet to be circulated to members.

45. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to approve the holding of the thirty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission and to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for that session.

46. *It was so decided.*

(d) Human settlements (*continued*)

47. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2002/L.30/Rev.1, entitled "Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda", which was without programme budget implications.

48. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.30/Rev.1 was adopted.*

(f) Population and development (*continued*)

49. **The President** drew attention to chapter I, section A, of document E/2002/25 and Corr.1 and invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-fifth session and provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission".

50. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*)

51. **The President** drew attention to the two draft decisions in chapter II of document E/2002/42. He invited the Council to take action on draft decision I, entitled "Date and venue of the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests".

52. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

53. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision II, entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its second session and provisional agenda for its third session".

54. **Mr. Aguzzi-Durán** (Observer for Venezuela) said that, following consultations between the interested parties, a proposal had been made to alter the order of items in the provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Item 3 (b), entitled "Progress in implementation", with its elements (i), (ii) and (iii), would become item 3 (a). The original item 3 (a), entitled "Means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management" would become item 3 (b) and would be amended through the addition of the final phrase "as a cross-cutting issue considered in the context of item 3 (a) (i, ii, iii)". In item 4 (e), entitled "Intersessional work, including review of the reports of the ad hoc expert groups", the words "review of the reports" would be replaced with the words "further discussion on the establishment".

55. *Draft decision II, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Elections, nominations and confirmations postponed from the previous session

Commission for Social Development

56. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect Romania by acclamation to fill the remaining vacancy in the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

57. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women

58. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect Armenia by acclamation to fill the remaining vacancy in the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

59. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

60. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect Bolivia by acclamation to fill the vacancy for a member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

61. *It was so decided.*

62. **The President** took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004 and the election of three members from the Group of Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

63. *It was so decided.*

Committee for Programme and Coordination

64. **The President** took it that the Council wished to nominate Monaco to fill one of the three vacancies awaiting nominees from the Group of Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

65. *It was so decided.*

66. **The President** took it that the Council wished to postpone the nomination of two members from the Group of Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

67. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

68. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect Burundi and Ecuador by acclamation to fill the remaining two vacancies for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

69. *It was so decided.*

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

70. **The President** drew attention to the curriculum vitae of Ms. Chokila Iyer contained in document E/2002/L.1/Add.23. In the absence of any other nominee, he took it that the Council wished to elect Ms. Iyer by acclamation for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

71. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the World Food Programme

72. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect Poland by acclamation for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

73. *It was so decided.*

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

74. **The President** drew the attention of the Council to document E/2002/L.1/Add.25, regarding applications for membership of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. He took it that the Council wished to endorse the decision of the Secretary-General to approve the applications from China, Denmark and Portugal for membership in the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

75. *It was so decided.*

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

76. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect the Sudan to replace the Comoros for the entirety of the latter's four-year term of office, which was to have begun on 1 January 2003.

77. *It was so decided.*

Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

78. **The President** took it that the Council wished to elect the Comoros to replace the Sudan for the entirety of the latter's three-year term of office, which was to have begun on 1 January 2003.

79. *It was so decided.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

80. **Mr. Briz** (Guatemala) introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Financing for Development", which had been the subject of negotiations facilitated by Mr. Rosenthal, Vice-President of the Council.

81. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

82. **Mr. Escanero** (Mexico) said that the draft resolution expressed the clarity of purpose and determination of the Council. The important political message it contained was that implementation of the commitments made at Monterrey was of paramount importance. Joint responsibility and cohesiveness would magnify the impact of those commitments.

Suspension of the session

83. **The President** announced that since consideration of a number of issues had been deferred during the current substantive session of the Council a resumed substantive session would be held in the autumn of 2002.

84. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs) said that the Council's substantive session had yielded a solid outcome that was in line with the expectations of the Millennium Summit and the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

85. **The President** said that each of the segments of the substantive session had achieved concrete goals. The session had taken place at a time when the United Nations system was closely focused on the Millennium development goals, and at a crucial juncture in major United Nations conferences, between the Monterrey Conference and the Johannesburg Summit. In the light of those considerations, it had sought to take a holistic approach to following up such major conferences, and the number of senior figures present at the high-level segment, from ministers to representatives of civil society, had been testament to its success in achieving that approach.

86. There was a pressing need for a large number of disjointed issues to be given a common focus and direction, and the Council had taken seriously its coordination role, holding its first meeting with the heads of its functional commissions, tackling new issues such as gender mainstreaming and the least developed countries, and concentrating attention on implementation of the Millennium development goals.

87. When he had opened the session, he had remarked that its success would depend not on the number of resolutions it adopted, but on the effect that it ultimately had on the lives of ordinary people. One important example of the advances made was the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict.

88. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the President** declared the substantive session of the Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.